

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-21 are pending in the application; Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

The Office Action has objected to the drawings as not illustrating every feature set forth in the claims.

With respect to the objection to the sensor not being shown (Claim 7), Figure 5 has been amended to show a sensor 87 connected to the PIO 84. The drawing change does not constitute new matter as the specification discloses in [0048] that the PIO 84 receives signals sent from sensors. Since exemplary sensor 87 is now shown in Figure 5, the specification at [0048] was amended to reference this sensor 87. No new matter has been added.

With respect to the objection to the drawings related to the “vertical direction towards the tray,” Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to delete the “towards the tray” language and the claim language clarified. Accordingly the drawings now illustrate the features of claims 5 and 9 and no changes to the drawings are necessary with respect to this feature.

Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 5-12 are objected to. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 was objected to because it was unclear how a roller can reverse the orientation of a sheet. The claim does not state or imply that *only* a single roller is used to reverse the sheet. Nevertheless, in order to clarify the issue, the language of claim 5 was amended to recite that the roller is arranged to assist in reversing an orientation of the sheet. When the sheet passes around the shape of the roller, the orientation of the sheet is reversed. Therefore this objection should be withdrawn.

Regarding Claim 7 and the controller configured to hold, Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the controller is configured to control the ejection rollers.

Therefore, the objection to the claims is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 5-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons set forth above with respect to the objection to claim 5 relating to the reversing of the roller, the amended form of Claim 5, which now recites that the roller is arranged to assist in reversing an orientation, overcomes this rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 05-131696 to Konishi in view of JP 2879872 to Onizuka et al. and U.S.P. 5,225,881 to Goto et al. and Claims 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Konishi, Onizuka et al., Goto et al. and further in view of U.S.P. 5,560,595 to Kulpa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1 for example, recites that a sheet feeding mechanism feeds a portion of a recording sheet “along a straight path.” Further, claim 1 recites “the sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the inkjet recording head until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing.” This feature keeps the sheet straight when the ink recorded thereon is still wet. If the paper having wet ink were to go through a path which reversed the orientation of the sheet, the wet ink on the page could be smeared or smudged, thus reducing the quality of the printed image. The prior art used to rejection the claims does not have this substantially straight feature.

The outstanding office action relies on *Konishi* (JP 05-131696) for the feature of a substantially horizontal straight path. However, *Konishi* does not disclose or suggest a “sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the inkjet recording head until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing.” As can be

seen in Figure 1 of *Konishi*, after printing by the print head 8, the paper travels through a curved path which reverses the orientation of the printed page. This is different from the claim language which requires a sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the inkjet recording head until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing. The other independent claims use similar but different language.

As the prior art used to reject the claims does not disclose or suggest the above feature, the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn.

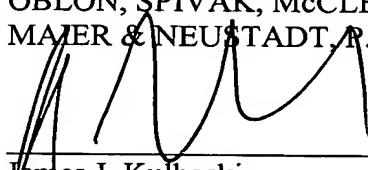
The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the individual features they recite.

Consequently, in light of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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